



NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

November 2014, Volume 46 No. 11, ¥400

SINK THE ASAHI!

THE MEDIA AS A TARGET



Profiled
Akiko Ryu
Innes-Taylor

The sober truth
Niigata Governor
Izumida vs the
“Nuclear Village”

Mythbusted
PM Tanaka’s visit
to the FCCJ



> THEME.06
> NO END

In search of the ultimate sphere

Mention the word “bearing” and most people imagine the ball, the shiny metallic sphere inside. Not only are they beautiful, but today these spheres are among the most perfectly crafted human creations, closer to being perfectly spherical than any other object, natural or manmade. Perhaps the best example is NSK’s highest-precision ball bearing that deviates by just 50 nanometers – 50 billionths of a meter – from perfectly spherical.

Why does NSK go to such extremes in search of perfection?

The more perfect the sphere, the less friction and energy loss and the greater the precision in the bearing. Although the incremental gain in energy efficiency from a single improved bearing may be minute, considering that the world’s automakers build about 12 billion bearings a year into their products, tiny steps can amount to quantum leaps. At NSK, that’s why we will never rest till we reach the perfect sphere.

NSK Ltd., PR Dept.
Email: pr-dept-news@nsk.com
Tel: 03-3779-7050
Nissei Bldg. 1-6-3 Ohsaki, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-8560



p12

In this issue

The Front Page	
From the President by Lucy Birmingham	4
Tales from the round tables by The Shimbun Alley Whisperers	4
From the archives by Charles Pomeroy	4
Cover	
Sink the <i>Asahi!</i> by David McNeill and Justin McCurry	6
Profile	
Akiko Ryu Innes-Taylor by Lucy Alexander	8
Mythbusting the Tanaka confrontation by Eiichiro Tokumoto	10
Lee Mingwei makes you part of his art by Jonas Pulver	12
Ian Bremmer is feeling “pretty good” by Julian Ryall	14
The governor takes on the “Nuclear Village” by John Harris	15
A new publishing paradigm by Charles Pomeroy	16
Club News	
FCCJ exhibition: <i>Tokyo Pop</i> by Androniki Christodoulou	17
Join the Movie Committee /Heard at the Club/	
New Members/New in the library	

NUMBER 1
SHIMBUN

Vol. 46, Number 11 November 2014

contact the editors
no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp

Publisher FCCJ

Editor Gregory Starr
Art Director Andrew Potheary
www.forbiddencolour.com
Editorial Assistants Naomichi Iwamura, Tyler Rothmar
Photo Coordinator Akiko Miyake
Publications committee members
Gavin Blair (Chair), Geoffrey Tudor, *Orient Aviation*, Martin Fackler, *New York Times*, Monzurul Huq, *Pratham Alo*, Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*, Patrick Zoll, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Sonja Blaschke, *freelance*

FCCJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of July 25)
President Lucy Birmingham, *Freelance*
1st Vice President Michael Penn, *Shingetsu News Agency*
2nd Vice President Masaaki Fukunaga, *The Sanmarg*
Secretary Patrick Zoll, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*
Treasurer Yuichi Otsuka, *Associate Member*
Directors at Large
Suvendrini Kakuchi, *Inter Press Service*
Akiko Ryu Innes-Taylor, *Associate Member*
Carsten Germis, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*
Milton Isa, *Associate Member*

Kanji William Sposato, *Freelance*

FCCJ COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Associate Members Liaison Milton Isa
Entertainment Sandra Mori, Suvendrini Kakuchi
Exhibition Bruce Osborn
Finance Yuichi Otsuka
House & Property Michael Penn
Human Resources Masaaki Fukunaga
Information Technology Roger Williams
Library, Archives & Workroom Koichi Ishiyama, Suvendrini Kakuchi
Membership Monzurul Huq, Peter O’Connor
Membership Marketing Bill Shin, Rie Sakamoto
Movie Karen Severns
Professional Activities Abi Sekimitsu, David McNeill
Publications Gavin Blair
Special Projects Haruko Watanabe
Web Committee Tim Hornyak
Compliance Committee Kunio Hamada
70th Anniversary Panel Yoshio Murakami
Grievance Panel Monzurul Huq, Yozo Hasegawa
Freedom of Press TBD
Food & Beverage TBD
De Roy Memorial Scholarship TBD

Foreign Press in Japan Justin McCurry

The Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan
Yurakucho Denki Building, North Tower 20F,
1-7-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006.
Tel: (03) 3211-3161 Fax: (03) 3211-3168 fccj.or.jp

Published by the FCCJ All opinions contained within Number 1 Shimbun are those of the authors. As such, these opinions do not constitute an official position of Number 1 Shimbun, the editor or the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan.

Please pitch and send articles and photographs, or address comments to no.1shimbun@fccj.or.jp
Read the Number 1 Shimbun online:
fccj.or.jp/number-1-shimbun/

Cover illustration and photo: Andrew Potheary
(Incorporating a wave photo by Dreamstime)



From the President

SO CLOSE, BUT SO far. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics may seem a distant six years away, but they're already looming close as organizing committees congregate, Olympic and Paralympic athletes visit from abroad, and marketing/ad agencies gear up to draw more attention to Tokyo than the city has seen since 1964.

As part of these efforts, we've just concluded our Dateline Tokyo 2014 program, in which we collaborated with the Tokyo Metropolitan government to invite six journalists from India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada and the U.S. for a six-week stay that ended Oct. 31. Despite the Olympic-sized organizational challenges, the program has been deemed a success – with the visitors producing articles, video reports and blog posts for such outlets as the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *Huffington Post*, *Japan Today*, Al Jazeera and the *South China Morning Post*. We'll be posting a list of links on the FCCJ website.

On the Paralympics front, a recent highlight for me was the opportunity to emcee on Oct. 16 a PAC press conference with Sir Philip Craven, president of the International Paralympic Committee, and Mr. Yasushi Yamawaki, president of the Japanese Paralympic Committee. Sir Philip was truly inspiring. A five-time Paralympian in wheelchair basketball, he has won gold, silver and bronze medals at numerous world championships. He spoke about the transformative effect on the places and people where the Paralympics have been held.

Coincidentally, I just finished reading the deeply inspiring story of Olympic runner and WWII POW survivor Louis Zamperini. Author Laura Hillenbrand's 2010 book on Zamperini's extraordinary life, *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* has been adapted into a film directed by Angelina Jolie to be released in December.

The book mentions Robert Trumbull, the legendary *New York Times* correspondent, Tokyo bureau chief and FCCJ director who covered WWII and the occupation. And former FCCJ member Peter Hadfield is credited in the book with tracking down in 1996 a psychotic prison camp guard who beat Zamperini daily. Hadfield's remarkable interview with Mutsuhiro Watanabe "the Bird" was published in the *Daily Mail*.

Unbroken reexamines the senseless, unimaginable cruelty suffered by WWII POWs under Japan's military governance. As Japan's leaders now push to extend the country's military role backed by constitutional change, the book is a reminder of the ruinous impact of military aggression and the dire necessity of lasting peace – on all sides of the Pacific, and beyond.

We'll have an opportunity to revisit the wartime experiences of more athletes on the other side of the Pacific at the special FCCJ screening of *The Vancouver Asahi* at the Canadian Embassy on Dec. 10. This moving film is about the Canadian-Japanese baseball team who were five-time champions before being interned in camps after Pearl Harbor. Don't miss it.

Back in Yurakucho, don't miss the opportunity to spread the word to friends and colleagues about the Club's new membership campaign going on until Dec. 31. There's no joining fee for the Young and Regular Professional Journalist Associate categories. There's ¥50,000 off on the joining fee for Associate members and ¥30,000 off for Young Associates. Introductory discount vouchers apply to all categories.

Wishing you a November bright with fall colors and the peaceful moments to enjoy it.

– Lucy Birmingham

From now until our 70th anniversary in November 2015, we will turn these pages over to the history of the Club, both of the many esteemed and important guests who faced us – and the world – from the FCCJ dais and of the many Members who have made the Club such a fascinating place to be.

TALES FROM THE ROUND TABLES



"DIKKO" HUGHES MEETS JAMES BOND

"WHEN AUSTRALIAN RICHARD HUGHES first landed here in 1940, he found ambassadors still needed reminding that Shanghai was not in Japan and the Emperor did not sleep at the Grand Shrine of Ise. He wasted no time proving his journalistic credentials, though, being first to alert his homeland that Japan was to forge an alliance with Germany.

"One cringing misadventure often recalled with much hilarity was how in 1947 he became the only journalist ever appointed FCCJ general manager. He was selected by what he called a 'drunken and uproarious endorsement' by his peers, a mixed membership of the world's best and bravest journalists, along with 'the world's most plausible rogues and magisterial scoundrels.'

"FCCJ was in those days a lively establishment, which the reluctant manager said had the 'features of a makeshift bordello, inefficient gaming-house and black market centre,' not to mention 'the aspirations and pretensions of an outpost of the free world in a defeated oriental state.' Still, Hughes managed a coup when he convinced General MacArthur to help coax the FCCJ's landlord, Mitsubishi, to repair exploding basement lavatories and crumbling steps in the five-storied, brownstone building at No. 1 Shimbun Alley.

"News and revelation, scandal and fact' were always on tap at the FCCJ bar, where the GM no doubt polished his already considerable intelligence-gathering skills. Though the 'eccentric experiment,' as he liked to call his tenure,

came to an end in less than two years, Hughes went on to make his name in a string of international scoops, highlighted by the exclusive interview in Moscow with the British defectors Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess.

"Everyone assumed he was a double agent, so it was no surprise when Ian Fleming, his close friend and former editor at the London *Sunday Times*, came to Japan in 1962 in search of local color and inspiration for his next novel about James Bond, agent 007.

"Fleming and 'Dikko' spent two glorious weeks visiting the most idyllic shrines and temples tucked away in the scenic hills of Kyoto and Fukuoka, hot springs, villas with secret corridors riddled with trap doors, tea houses of ill repute, all the while 'staying loyal' to local saké every evening. Fleming was particularly eager to meet pearl divers, as he had already decided his next 007 heroine would be an *ama*, so off they went to Mikimoto's pearl farm.

"Hughes noted that Fleming never developed an affinity for eating and sleeping on tatami, but writes of his consuming admiration for Japanese simplicity and the genuine pleasure he drew from the most mundane chance encounters.

"Fleming had a bad heart, but against the doctor's orders, always travelled with his own bottle of bourbon. This was better for the heart than scotch because 'the muscles expand under bourbon, Dikko, but they contract under Scotch.' Hughes wasn't impressed by Fleming's science,

but wishfully reasoned that bourbon must then also be correcting the ill effects of the copious volume of nicotine Fleming was inhaling. It didn't quite deliver, though, as Fleming died just two years later of a massive heart attack shortly after the fruit of their journey was published.

"The much anticipated novel read rather like a travelogue, with a somber and curiously introspective tone. When the film producers flew out on their reconnaissance, however, they found Tokyo resplendent from five years of Olympics construction madness, and promptly shifted the storyline to highlight the state-of-the-art tech gadgetry that now came to define Japan.

"Fleming never saw the film, nor the New Otani Hotel that rose from its ancient gardens like a metaphor for Japan's global ambitions. But it's doubtful he would have been happy with the liberties his erstwhile good friend Roald Dahl took in writing the script. Still, *You Only Live Twice*, starring Sean Connery and actress Mie Hama as the beautiful *ama*, was a huge international hit, and cemented James Bond's popularity in Japan.

"The book and film just added to Hughes' growing fame. For being Fleming's loyal guide and key Japan source, the FCCJ's short lived GM was honored in perpetuity as Dikko Henderson, Bond's British contact in Tokyo, (played in the film by Charles Gray)."

– The Shimbun Alley Whisperers

FROM THE ARCHIVES



DYNAMIC DUO

PINK LADY, A DYNAMIC pop music duo named after the cocktail drink (according to a 1979 article in *Look*), was formed by two Shizuoka high-school classmates in the mid-1970s. While in their late teens, the two girls, Mitsuyo Nemoto ("Mie") and Keiko Masuda ("Kei"), appeared on a Japanese TV talent show and won the top prize as well as a recording contract. A meteoric rise followed, resulting from a string of catchy pop songs to a disco beat, accompanied by synchronized dance steps and sexy costumes. By the end of the 1970s they had nine No. 1 hits – five of which were million-selling singles – as well as a film that became a box-office hit.

At their peak in 1978, Pink Lady appeared in their first concert in the U. S., followed by a short-lived NBC-TV variety show in 1980. But less visibility at home and declining



Pink Lady wowed members of the FCCJ on the evening of December 6, 1978, at the peak of their career. Adding a glamorous dimension to Club events, their appearance followed those of such illustrious entertainers as Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, and Marcel Marceau. (Photo from FCCJ Archives)

interest in disco music hurt their record sales, as did their refusal in 1978 to perform on NHK's annual New Year's Eve

music program, *Kohaku Uta Gassen* ("Red-and-White Song Contest"), in favor of hosting their own TV special on another network with disastrous results. A later switch to a style with greater appeal for adults missed the mark and the duo disbanded in 1981.

They continued independently with

successful careers as singers and actresses. In 2005, the duo held a farewell tour in Japan, then made a comeback in 2010 with the release of re-recorded versions of their past hits. A concert tour followed in March, 2011, marking the 30th anniversary of their official disbandment.

Pink Lady will be long-remembered for being only the second Japanese act to have a single ("Kiss in the Dark") achieve "Billboard Top 40" fame, following Kyu Sakamoto and "Sukiyaki" in 1963.

– Charles Pomeroy



LexisNexis®

Discount LexisNexis Subscriptions for FCCJ Members

The FCCJ is pleased to offer members a substantial discount on subscriptions to LexisNexis' news database service, Nexis.com

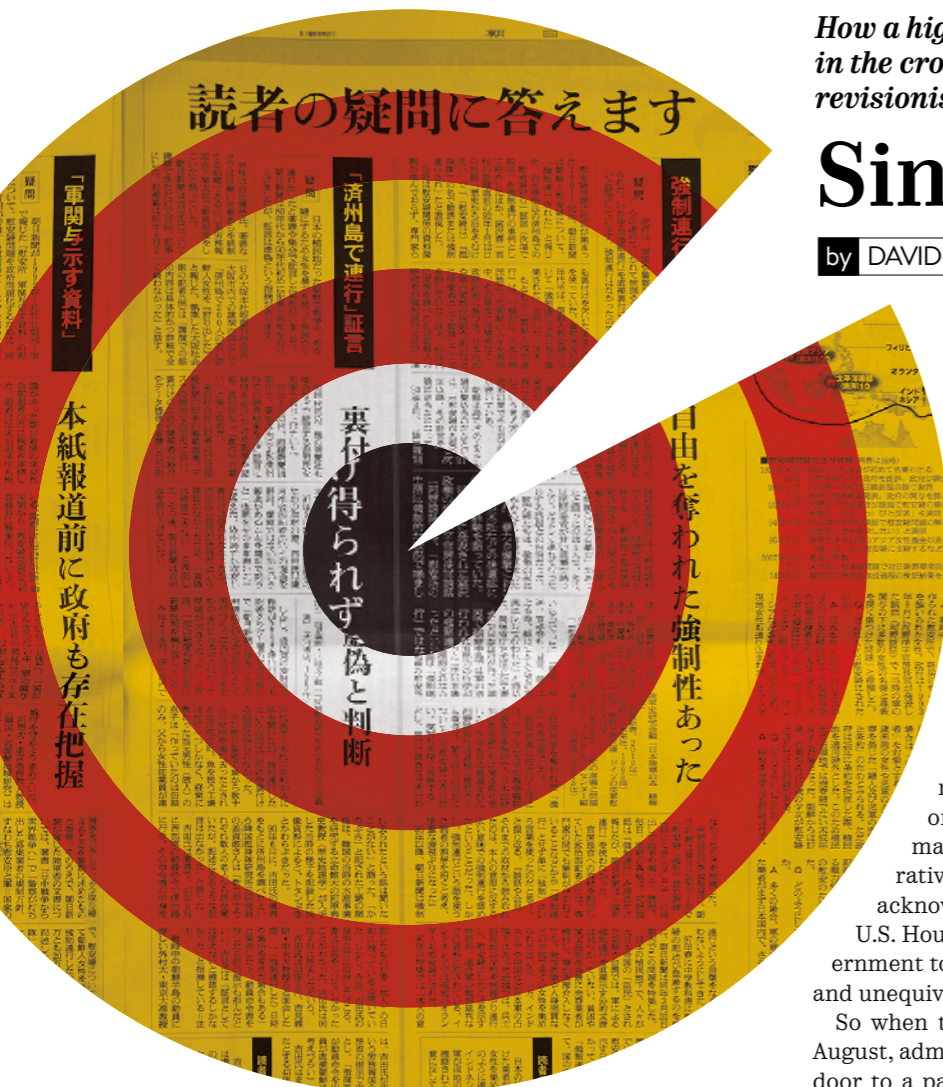
The Members-only deal allows for flat-rate access at ¥7,900 per month - offering big savings on a service that normally costs ¥126,000 per month

The service will be billed by the Club. The FCCJ benefits from all subscriptions sold under this arrangement.

Nexis provides access to news and information from more than 34,000 sources, including Kyodo News, Jiji, Yonhap, Xinhua, AP, Reuters, AFP, all major world newspapers and specialist news sources. Also included is a database of U.S. and international company information, biographical databases, country profiles and a U.S. legal database.

For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.





How a highly respected newspaper ended up in the crosshairs of rabid rivals, righteous revisionists and a terribly talkative Texan.

Sink the Asahi!

by DAVID McNEILL & JUSTIN McCURRY

How did it come to this – a nondescript community on the edge of Los Angeles' massive urban sprawl becoming the focus of a struggle between two East Asian nations for the world's sympathy, if not its conscience?

Apparently, if rightist revisionists are to be believed, the *Asahi Shimbun* is to blame – for this, as well as for the entire globally accepted history of the Japanese military's involvement in forcing women into sexual slavery during World War II.

It began when Japan's second most-read newspaper ran a series of articles in the 1990s on comfort women, with one of its sources a man named Seiji Yoshida. In the revisionist narrative, that triggered the 1993 Kono Statement that acknowledged the army's role and eventually led to the U.S. House Resolution 121 of 2007, calling on Japan's government to “formally acknowledge and apologize in a clear and unequivocal manner” for the sordid episode.

So when the *Asahi* belatedly apologized for the series in August, admitting that Yoshida was discredited, it opened the door to a parade of chest-thumping revisionists. [See “The *Asahi*'s Costly Admission,” *Number 1 Shimbun*, Sept. 2014].

The criticism of the paper began at the top. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe repeatedly hauled the newspaper over the coals for its coverage. “Many people were hurt, saddened and angered by the *Asahi*'s false reports,” that “damaged our honor around the world,” he said.

The *Sankei* and the *Yomiuri* showed no mercy in their attacks. Even the *Japan News*, the English-language edition of the *Yomiuri*, ran close to 50 articles, editorials and guest columns in late summer and fall on the rival paper's woes, including a four-part series in which it claimed that “the *Asahi*'s stories on the comfort women issue over the decades have been a significant factor in the entrenchment of the distorted view that ‘the Japanese military systematically and forcibly took away women to serve as comfort women’ for its soldiers.”

TWISTED FACTS, TWISTED WORDS

In fact, the Kono Statement was the product of years of campaigning by Korean and other former military sex slaves. Likewise, the discredited Yoshida memoir and *Asahi*'s reporting of it had nothing to do with Resolution 121 – so said the group of experts who helped write it. The scholars were moved to make this clear after the *Mainichi* newspaper reported exactly the opposite after interviewing them. “All of us were astonished,” they recall.

“We had *unequivocally* told the reporters that the Yoshida memoir and *Asahi*'s reporting of it were not factors in the consideration, drafting, or defense of the [resolution],” they said in a statement. “We emphasized that one discredited

source would not form the basis of research for Congress.” In fact, they said, “There was ample documentary and testimonial evidence from across the Indo-Pacific region to support the fact that Imperial Japan organized and managed a system of sexual slavery for its military as well as for its colonial officials, businessmen and overseas workers.”

The odd sense shared by the Resolution 121 experts that the *Mainichi* reporters had made their minds up before they walked through the door, is one we recognize. After the *Asahi*'s retraction, we were approached by several Japanese news organizations asking the same question: Wasn't the *Asahi* coverage of the comfort issue a major influence on reporting by foreign correspondents?

We both have a clear answer: no. Neither of us had even heard of Yoshida until this year. Over the last decade, however, we have interviewed many of these women first hand, in South Korea and elsewhere. We have visited the House of Sharing, a museum and communal refuge for surviving comfort women outside of Seoul.

The eight residents include Kang Il-chul, who still bears the physical scars of the two years she spent working in a Japanese military brothel in occupied northwest China, thousands of miles from her home in the southern half of the Korean peninsula. “I was put in a tiny room and made to sleep with about 10 to 20 soldiers a day,” Kang said.

When confronted with claims that no evidence exists that she and her contemporaries were coerced, she leaned forward to reveal the wounds on her scalp – the result, she said, of frequent beatings by the military police.

Kang, who married a Chinese man after the war, did not return to South Korea until 2000. “To hear Japan's leaders accuse us of being liars makes me sad and angry,” the 87-year-old said in 2012.

An unofficial campaign of intimidation has been launched against ex-*Asahi* journalists. This campaign has precedent: ultra-rightists targeting “anti-Japanese elements” in the media murdered *Asahi* journalist Tomohiro Kojiri in 1987. The main target this time is Takashi Uemura, a former Seoul bureau chief now vilified for his comfort women coverage.

An article in the weekly magazine *Shukan Bunshun*, expressing disbelief that he was to be employed at Kobe Shoin Women's University, triggered a tsunami of hate mail. “As soon as the story came out, 200 messages a week flooded into the university office,” Uemura said.

He negotiated a settlement with the school, then retreated to his native Sapporo, where he found part-time work at Hokusei Gakuen University. The hate trail followed him, this time including a threat to blow up the university. As the *No.1 Shimbun* goes to press a suspect is in police custody for making that threat, and Uemura has managed to hang on to his job.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Where might all this be heading? A national “anti-*Asahi Shimbun*” committee, led by lawmaker Nariaki Nakayama, discussed plans at its inaugural conference to widen the boycott and haul *Asahi* editors and journalists before the Diet. The Texas *Oyaji* stepped forward with a claim that the *Asahi* dishonored many members of the former Japanese Imperial army by labeling them as “sex offenders.”

Yoshiko Sakurai, a high-profile revisionist, added an ominous note. “I believe the people at the *Asahi* perhaps fail to

comprehend what a real national crisis their decades of shoddy reporting has brought about,” she blogged. “In all candor, I am tempted to say that there really is no medicine that can cure the *Asahi*.”

And just when it seemed that the *Yomiuri* might have tired of pounding its rival, it published a 24-page online pamphlet titled “Myth and Truth in East Asia” in late October that again took the *Asahi* to task. And the *Sankei* publishing group announced that it wasn't ready to retreat from the attack with an entire issue of the magazine *Seiron* devoted to more *Asahi*-bashing.

All this, along with a boycott campaign led by the *Sankei*, has taken its toll. The *Asahi*'s circulation is down by 770,000 since November 2013.

It is unreasonable to expect newspapers to resist the temptation to crow about errors made by a rival publication. The same would almost certainly happen in the UK, even among respectable broadsheets. But in their sustained criticism, the *Sankei* and *Yomiuri* appear to be doing the bidding of the revisionist movement.

Revisionists, however, deny they are trying to crush the paper. “I hope we can force the *Asahi* to change its stripes and admit its past mistakes,” says Tony Kase, collaborator with Henry Scott Stokes on the recent revisionist bestseller *Falsehoods of the Allied Nations' Victorious View of History, as Seen by a British Journalist*. He says he has “many dear friends” at the *Asahi*. “It did many good things, including supporting our last war in liberating the rest of Asia.”

In the spectrum of difficult choices facing Japan's liberal flagship, reverting to its flag-waving, wartime incarnation might seem the least palatable. Whatever its editors decide, however, the nationalist knives are out.

In fact, there are signs that criticism of the *Asahi* is transforming into a sustained campaign to discredit the Kono statement, as the region prepares to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII next summer.

In October, Abe was quoted saying that, “baseless, slanderous claims that the entire nation regarded [women] as sexual slaves are being made all over the world.”

And his administration has demanded changes to a 1996 report by the UN commission on human rights – known as the Coomaraswamy Report.

“Japan thinks that, by damaging the credibility of the Coomaraswamy Report, it can change the perception in the international community that the comfort women were sex slaves,” Han Hye-in, researcher at the Academy of East Asian Studies at Sungkyunkwan University, told the South Korean *Hankyoreh* newspaper.

In response, perhaps the last word should go to Yu Hui-nam, a House of Sharing resident who was 16 when she was taken to work in a brothel in Osaka. “I was ashamed and humiliated,” she said of her initial refusal to return to South Korea after Japan's defeat. She revealed the truth about her past only when other former comfort women started coming forward many years later.

“We were snatched, like flowers that have been picked before they bloom.” ●

David McNeill writes for the Independent, the *Irish Times*, the *Economist* and other publications and is a coordinator of the electronic journal www.japanfocus.org. Justin McCurry is the Japan and Korea correspondent for the *Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers in London. He contributes to the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Lancet* medical journal, and makes regular appearances on France 24 TV.

Akiko Ryu Innes-Taylor

by LUCY ALEXANDER

In a club run by foreign journalists for foreign journalists, the contribution of Japanese Professional Associate Members can sometimes be overlooked. Yet one wouldn't want to underestimate Akiko Ryu Innes-Taylor, head of global communications for Otsuka Pharmaceutical, who was elected to the FCCJ board in July. A 51-year-old motorcycle enthusiast and single mother, Ryu has smashed many conventions of Japanese corporate life.

Now she is on a mission to modernize the Japanese public relations industry, starting with the "hacks and flacks" of the FCCJ. "Global media is essential for the Japanese government and companies," she said. "Getting to know foreign journalists is very important and that's why the Club is useful. These journalists create Japan's reputation abroad. Corporate communications people in Japan tend to be very reserved, but passivity never creates a good reputation. We have to speak out."

She believes that the Club can offer "freedom" to Japanese members, "a neutral space where they can hear what the global community outside Japan is talking about. Not information adapted for Japanese people, but instead very honest feedback about the country."

Japan's particular tendency towards insularity and fondness for the controlled message can result in press officers who see it as their job to block the foreign press. "There is a barrier between Japanese companies and foreign journalists," said Ryu. "Japanese people read Japanese newspapers and we know what's the norm with interviews and articles. But when it's international media we don't really know what a normal discussion is. So if we are asked for an interview, it's more difficult to predict whether its going to be positive or not."

The problem is exacerbated, she says, by the "immaturity" of the Japanese communications industry. "The position of PR people in most companies is much lower than is usual globally", she said. "They are focused on internal communications. In the U.S., it's not about making brochures, it's about making a corporate reputation. I think the Club offers a very good chance for communicators to see that gap and to try to minimize it."

Ryu's first job was as a pharmaceutical researcher at Otsuka, after a degree in medical nutrition at Tokushima University on Shikoku. "I was very fat in high school, so I was interested in healthy living," she said. Aged 26, she met her husband, a Canadian kayaker 17 years her senior, at a bikers' gathering in Yamanashi Prefecture. They were married within six months. "My father was shocked by the age difference, and because my husband had one eye and walked with a stick - he had an artificial hip," she said. "He looked like Captain Hook."

"Japanese people read Japanese newspapers and we know what's the norm . . . But when it's international media we don't really know what a normal discussion is."

Two children and a happy career at Otsuka followed. "When I took maternity leave in 1991," she said, "I was the first woman in this country to ever do so. The government had not yet introduced it and the company did not have a system, so I said I would quit my job. The company said, 'OK, we will start offering maternity leave.'"

She believes that companies must have specific policies for promoting women. Akihiko Otsuka, the company chairman, started a women's forum in 1990. "At the time, the company could not hire talented men, because they all went to Takeda," she said. "So Mr. Otsuka looked at overseas markets, saw that lots of women were active in those companies, and decided to hire women. Otsuka now has six female operating officers."

Otsuka is best known for its "nutraceuticals" range of health supplements, which includes Pocari Sweat. "Ten years ago, our position was about 12th in Japan," said Ryu. "Now we are second. Our drug Abilify is the number one prescription drug for schizophrenia in the United States."

In 1996, after 10 years at Otsuka, Ryu decided to make a break. "I was approached by a headhunter and asked if I wanted to work for an international company. I thought I

would try, but it was a big failure." The job, at JWT, the advertising agency, was unsuited to her. "The headhunter apologized and helped me find a better job."

Three years at Mars Japan followed, before Ryu left to care for her husband, who was recovering from a hip operation. A job at Bluebell, a French luxury goods company, followed. "After five years there, my husband got colon cancer, so I

left again," she said. After a stint as president of Sisley Japan, the French cosmetics company, she returned to Otsuka six years ago, and is now a senior operating officer. "Hanging onto one company is not really a good idea," Ryu said. "You have to promote yourself and you never develop your skills or increase your income."

In 2008, during her time at Sisley, her husband died. "It was the worst time of my life," she said. "My boys

were still in junior high school. It was very good that I had my own income. I really encourage women to have a job because you never know what will happen."

In her new role at the FCCJ, Ryu intends to encourage women's networking. "I want women members, including professional associate members, to be able to learn from each other. What interests me about the international women leaders who visit the Club is that they've never thought of quitting their jobs, and working is so natural. It's not the same in

Japan, but under [Prime Minister] Abe's leadership I think women's advancement will now slowly begin to move ahead." ■



Lucy Alexander is a freelance journalist and correspondent for the Times.



by EIICHIRO TOKUMOTO

One of the most famous and controversial events in this Club's history was the press luncheon for Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka. Held 40 years ago on Oct. 22, 1974, the event helped trigger a storm of criticism over Tanaka's shady financial dealings that led to his resignation soon thereafter, making the FCCJ a forum that altered Japan's politics.

It was famous, of course, because of the result – the fall of a powerful man. It was controversial because there were a number of differing accounts as to what happened and an equal number of theories as to why.

Among politicians of the postwar period, Kakuei Tanaka was atypical to the extreme. From the tenure of Shigeru Yoshida just after World War II, many of Japan's prime ministers were graduates of the University of Tokyo who had served in the bureaucracy before moving into politics. Tanaka, however, was born to an impoverished farming household in Niigata. Soon after completion of his primary schooling, he worked as a laborer on road construction before running his own construction firm in Tokyo while still in his twenties.

Elected to the Diet soon after the war, he had held cabinet positions as minister of posts and telecommunications and finance before being elected prime minister in July 1972. He was referred to in such terms as “the primary school graduate who became the people's prime minister” and “the computerized bulldozer,” and enjoyed a high degree of public support.

On the day Tanaka visited the FCCJ, however, he was in an exceptionally irritable mood. The November issue of the monthly magazine *Bungei Shunju*, which had been released just 12 days earlier, contained an investigative report by freelance journalist Takashi Tachibana titled “A study of Kakuei Tanaka – his money and political connections.”

The article provided details of how he accumulated enormous personal assets during his rise in politics, including records from real estate registries that pointed to suspicious transactions. Using multiple dummy companies, he had allegedly turned over properties for massive profits. While serving as minister of finance he cut in his crony, financier Kenji Osano, on sales of government-owned land. The huge profits from these deals, Tachibana alleged, were used to fund Tanaka's political activities.

In the question and answer session at the FCCJ luncheon, Tanaka was besieged with questions from foreign correspondents regarding the article. Clearly aggravated, he rose from his seat five minutes before the event was scheduled to end and walked out, together with his secretaries. For a serving prime minister to cut short a press event was regarded as extraordinary.

Up to that point, Japan's vernacular newspapers had been hesitant in their coverage of the *Bungei Shunju* article, but nearly all of them ran accounts of what transpired at the FCCJ press event. Tanaka's wheeling and dealing quickly emerged as a major political problem and on Nov. 26, he announced his resignation.

Even 40 years later, memories of the luncheon live on in the form of legend, rumor and conspiracy theories. To this day, some believe the event was manipulated by people seeking to drive Tanaka out of politics.

MYTH 1: FLUSTERED AND UNPREPARED?

One widely discussed theory is that Tanaka was flustered, and had been completely unprepared for the hard-hitting and confrontational questions over his shady dealings.

Was there any truth to the assertions? Gerhard Hielscher, who, as the Club's 2nd Vice President, was seated next to Tanaka on that day, recalls, “Just before the luncheon, we received a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking about what kinds of questions would be posed to Tanaka, and I replied that I supposed some would include questions about the political funding problem. As I was seated to Tanaka's immediate right, I could see that when he replied to the questions about the funding problem he referred to notes. So it would be a lie to say he became flustered because of the unanticipated questions.”

MYTH 2: A TAIWANESE-LED CONSPIRACY

One of the persons who maintained the attacks on Tanaka were conspiratorial was Akiko Sato, his secretary of many years. In a book titled *My Kakuei Tanaka Diary*, she wrote:

“Even while saying ‘I don't feel like doing it – I don't want to go,’ Tanaka nonetheless felt he should speak at the FCCJ. There was word going around that the criticism over financial impropriety had been started by a Taiwanese reporter. Was this the price Tanaka was forced to pay for his having restored diplomatic relations with mainland China?”

Why this rumor could find fertile ground is understandable

given the global politics of the times. Immediately after his assuming the post of prime minister in July 1972, Tanaka had visited China, met with Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai, and in a joint statement announced restoration of diplomatic ties. For the next two years and five months, Tanaka's success in restoring ties with China continued to reflect well on his government. At the same time, however, this had led to a severance of ties between Japan and the Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan, infuriating pro-Taiwan factions within the Liberal Democratic Party.

So is there any truth to Sato's suggestion that it was a reporter from Taiwan with resentment toward Tanaka who ignited the hostile questions? The answer can be found in the audiotape of the Tanaka luncheon, which is stored in the FCCJ library. Following are excerpts from that event related to the *Bungei Shunju* article.

Sam Jameson [*Los Angeles Times*] “In the U.S., the Senate is questioning Mr. Rockefeller about his personal wealth. Do you think that this sort of activity – asking a politician to account for his personal fortune – is appropriate in Japan as well? If not, why not? If you do think it is appropriate, would you comment on the *Bungei Shunju* article?”

Don Oberdorfer [*Washington Post*] “Do you plan to take any other kind of action with respect to the article that appeared in the magazine?”

Matthew Seiden [*Baltimore Sun*] “Just to make sure we understand your last statement. I believe you said “as reported in the *Bungei Shunju* article, my sources of income and my income tax statements have all been made public.” Does that mean that you're not denying but confirming the accuracy of the *Bungei Shunju* article? The question is a serious one. Are you denying it or saying it's accurate?”

Gerhard Hielscher [*Süddeutsche Zeitung*] and Peter Crome [*Frankfurter Rundschau*] also posed questions concerning the article.

So while Sato may be forgiven for characterizing the questions as hostile it is clear that not only was the questioning not launched by a Taiwanese reporter but that no journalist from Taiwan even asked questions.

Sam Jameson discussed the reasons he brought up the subject at a lunch prior to his death last year. “Although the magazine had gone on sale about two weeks earlier, Tanaka himself had not made a single comment about it.

That being the case, it was natural for me to ask him directly. I had only intended to ask him an extremely simple question.”

MYTH 3: THE AMERICANS WERE BEHIND IT

The dearth of reporters fluent in the Japanese language sowed the seeds for another conspiracy theory. Ukeru Magosaki, a former Japanese diplomat who headed the Foreign Ministry's Intelligence and Analysis Bureau, said that he felt that the bringing up of the *Bungei Shunju* article was “an exceedingly inexplicable move.”

In his book, *Sengoshi no Shotai* (“The Truth behind Postwar History”), Magosaki wrote that the U.S., angry over Japan's restoration of diplomatic relations with China, was keen to do a political hatchet job on Tanaka. “Many foreign reporters could not read Japanese. It seemed strange that five reporters in succession posed questions that had not appeared in any newspaper in Japan.” (Magosaki's book also cites portions from Tanaka's secretary Akiko Sato's book, but omits the part in which she floats the idea of a Taiwanese reporter being responsible.)

He has a point. Given the language level of the foreign

correspondents at the time, their knowledge about a dense 40-page article in a monthly magazine does seem mystifying. What was the truth?

In fact, in the lead up to Oct. 22, the date of the Tanaka luncheon, Japanese newspapers had made few references to the *Bungei Shunju* article. However, Japan's English-language newspapers had run detailed summaries of the article. On Oct. 14, eight days before the luncheon, the *Japan Times* reported on the article. The *Asahi Evening News* of Oct. 19 ran a similar story under the headline “Article on Tanaka's Money Sources Shocking Tories,” which noted that the *Bungei Shunju* article had been taken up at the Executive Board meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Likewise, the *Mainichi Daily News* of Oct. 20, under the headline “Watergate, Japanese Style?,” introduced Tanaka's questionable land dealings and other details from the magazine's article. And on Oct. 21, one day before the luncheon, the *Asahi Evening News* ran a translation of the parent publication's “*Tensei Jingo*” (Vox Populi, Vox Dei) column, which remarked that the *Bungei Shunju* article should be taken up more.

It went on: “If the contents of the article consist of facts, we do not want such a person as our prime minister. If they are not facts, shouldn't Prime Minister Tanaka personally explain his innocence?”

From this, it is clear that even foreign correspondents incapable of reading the original article would have known about its contents. And they would have been aware that Tanaka's “money politics” could lead to major political problems. That being the case, the press conference was simply about foreign correspondents asking the questions that Japanese reporters wanted to ask Tanaka in the first place.

Ironically, the day following the FCCJ press event, Japanese-language newspapers began running the *Bungei Shunju* article in its entirety. On Nov. 11, members of the prime minister's press club began firing questions at Tanaka over financial irregularities. He was to announce his resignation just 15 days later.

40 years later, memories of the luncheon live on in the form of legend, rumor and conspiracy theories

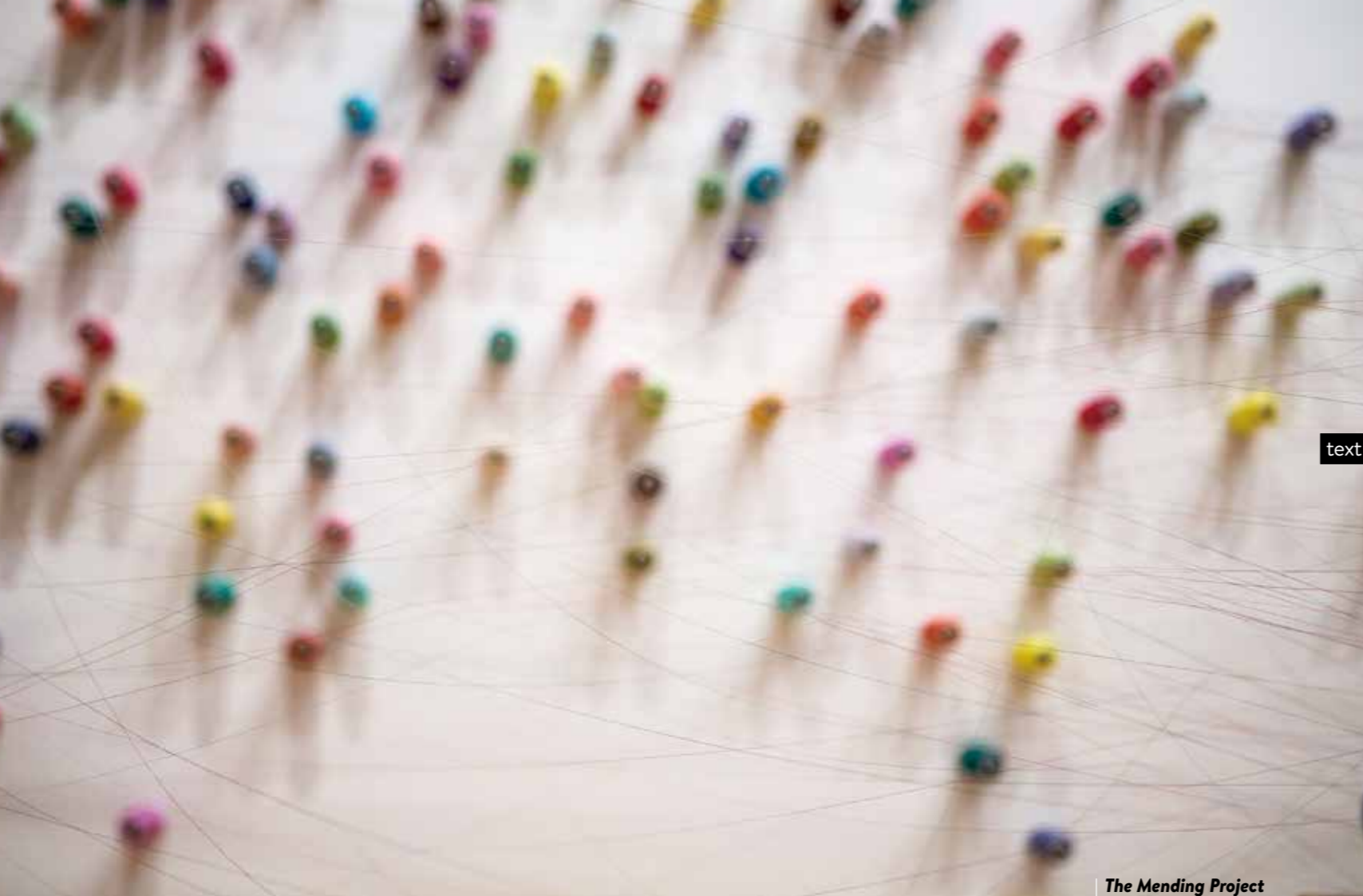
From these events, foreign correspondents were viewed as courageous journalists in pursuit of the truth, while Japanese reporters were criticized for being cowed by political power. Such a viewpoint, however, is an oversimplification. Former Kyodo News Agency reporter Kotaro Nogami, who attend-

ed Tanaka's luncheon at the FCCJ, was to admit in *Political Reporter*, his memoirs, that political reporters at the time were confronted with a serious dilemma.

“The fact was that it just wasn't possible for a reporter to closely cover an influential politician and at the same time pursue how he raised huge amounts of political funds,” Nogami wrote. “To pose such a question would only set off Tanaka's ire, and afterwards it would become more difficult to obtain unrehearsed, off-the-cuff remarks related to politics.”

That luncheon of 40 years ago clearly highlights the relationship between Japanese politicians and the mass media, the dilemmas that political reporters confronted, and the role played by foreign correspondents in Japanese society. Kakuei Tanaka passed away in 1993 at the age of 75, but the photo from that event still adorns the wall in the entry hall to the club. Certainly for the FCCJ he will be remembered as one of the greatest newsmakers of his era. ●

Eiichiro Tokumoto, a former Reuters correspondent, is an author and investigative journalist.



The Mending Project
The Moving Garden



FEATURE

CULTURE

Lee Mingwei makes you part of his art

The works of this New York-based, Taiwanese artist are all about participation, and his most notorious installations are now on display at the Mori Art Museum

text by JONAS PULVER

photos by MARTIN HLADIK

What if an artwork could leave its location and spread throughout a whole city? What if you could be part of this creative process? Well, it does and you can, with a visit to an exhibition at the Mori Art Museum.

It starts with flowers, one of which Taiwanese-born artist Lee Mingwei invites you to pick from the black granite vases of his piece, “The Moving Garden.” All he requires in return is a promise that you will offer it to a complete stranger on your trip home.

“The idea seems quite simple,” says Lee, “but the result is, in fact, very complex. While holding the flower you may start wondering: How should I greet the person I want to give the flower to? What words should I use? Is she going to like it? If you hesitate more than three seconds, the person will probably be gone.” Creation as shared value and generosity, as a way to engage interaction and nurture participation: that’s what Lee’s installations are all about.

The most evocative ones make up the very first large-scale retrospective exhibition of the New York-based artist, being held at the Mori in Roppongi until Jan. 4. Born in 1964, Lee Mingwei has been attracting international attention since the late 1990s, with works displayed in preeminent American museums as well as at biennales in Venice and Lyon. He admits that the participatory nature of his material makes it challenging for the curators.

“Usually, when a show opens, it is 100 percent complete,” he says. “In my case, however, only 40 percent is set. There are so many moving parts, so much left to uncertainty. It is like an organism that will be awakened by the public.” “The Mending Project,” for instance, consists of a table to which visitors bring pieces of garment (or even their favorite stuffed animal) to be sewed and repaired by the artist himself or a member of the museum team. As work progresses, spools of thread affixed to the walls form a network of colorful, physical and symbolic relations between the museum, the clothes and their owners.

“My works are very much about the viewers. Their history, emotions and memories literally become the content of my pieces,” Lee explains. “Viewers become part of the work, and the use of open-ended structure is an invitation for them to do so.”

Unlike conventional paintings or sculptures, Lee Mingwei’s installations do not deliver their essence through their visual dimension. “What you see is not what you get,” he says. “The physical material is only a portal to another

experience of reality.” These features climax in works such as “The Dining Project” or “The Sleeping Project,” for which Mingwei eats and even sleeps at the museum with complete strangers, outside opening hours. A lottery box allows you to apply for participation in the performances.

“Eating and sleeping are everyday actions,” says Lee. “However, when they are put in the framework of an institution, it changes their meanings. The fact that the performances can be witnessed by no one challenges the very mechanism of the museum.”

Chance, randomness: Lee Mingwei pushes the envelope that is the legacy of major 20th-century art figures such as Yves Klein, Allan Kaprow or John Cage, who deconstructed and questioned the necessity of representation, expression and even intention as constitutive elements of their artistic approach. The Mingwei show cleverly puts into perspective some drawings realized by the inspired fantasist John Cage during a stay in Kyoto; “Where R=Ryoanji” randomly circulates around the 15 stones of the famous zen garden, attesting the attraction for Asian culture among Western artists of the 1960s and 1970s. Interestingly, Lee Mingwei, like John Cage, is an avid reader of the *I Ching*, the famous Chinese *Book of Changes*. “Fate, chance and uncertainty define how the world functions,” he believes.

While Asian and Western influences inform Lee Mingwei’s style, he doesn’t consider it relevant to identify with either. “In reviews, Western journalists mainly focus on my proximity with Zen Buddhism,” he says, “while the Asian media talks more about the conceptual, aesthetic dimensions of my practice. I guess both groups exoticize me in a way that makes me understandable for their audience.”

Lee Mingwei has taken the opportunity of his Tokyo show to connect to Japan – his grandparents were educated in Tokyo in the 1930s – yet it is by no means a discourse on national identity. Instead, it is a device to foster connections, affinities and gift offerings. The installation “Constellation of Water,” commissioned by Mori, consists of two pieces of furniture that belonged to Mingwei’s grandmother.

“There’s a chair and a table on top of a very peaceful grass lawn facing the breathtaking panoramic view of the Tokyo skyline,” he says. “If you sit down, you can drink a glass of water that’s been prepared for you by the previous person.” Past, modernity and transmission: Lee Mingwei sees “Constellation of Water” as an occasion “to consider how we can pursue the adventure of our life. Usually, people walk out of a museum with more answers than when they entered. I would like the visitors to leave my show with more questions.”

And, eventually, with a flower in their hand. ❶

Jonas Pulver is a columnist and freelance journalist for the Swiss newspaper *Le Temps* and Swiss National Radio Espace 2.

The head of a leading political risk research and consulting firm gives a tentative thumbs up to the Asian region – for now.

Ian Bremmer is feeling “pretty good”



Ian Bremmer at the Club

by JULIAN RYALL

DESPITE THE VERBAL FISTICUFFS that have characterized the Sino-Japanese relationship in recent years, Ian Bremmer is feeling positive about the geopolitical situation in Asia at the moment. Longer-term, however, he admits there is “massive uncertainty” in the region.

Bremmer, the founder and president of the Eurasia Group, spoke at the FCCJ on Oct. 14 on a broad range of issues encompassing geopolitics, the markets and the future of Asia and further afield. Given the crises the world faces with the spread of Ebola and the extremist preachings of the Islamic State in Syria, of ongoing economic problems in the Euro zone, the unresolved conflict in Ukraine and, arguably, a lack of leadership being demonstrated by President Barack Obama’s second administration team, perhaps it is not such a surprise that the Asia-Pacific region seems relatively stress-free. At least for the time being.

“The rise of China is something that everyone in Japan rightly understands to be a problem long-term, but if you ask me, for the foreseeable future, I feel pretty good about geopolitics in Asia,” Bremmer said. And that optimism is in large part down to the relatively recent emergence of genuine leaders in the three most important countries in the region; Shinzo Abe, Xi Jinping in China and India’s Narendra Modi.

All three are “charismatic,” Bremmer said. All are promoting economic transformation in their respective nations and are experiencing some success with promoting change “on their terms, their time frames and

according to their priorities.” “I won’t pretend that I’m optimistic long-term . . . but I do believe that in the near-term all of them would like to see more stability in their backyards,” he said.

The indications that Japan and China are attempting to rebuild bridges – business delegations and envoys travelling back and forth, the increasing number of Chinese tourists to Japan, cultural exchanges – are clearly in place, he said, although there remains a caveat. “None of this makes me say that Japan and China are going to be fine ad infinitum because if China’s domestic reforms do not work or they get pushed back and they start going down the nationalistic route, then things could get very ugly indeed,” he said. “There is still massive uncertainty.”

The flashpoint for China and the wider region remains Beijing’s territorial claims in the South and East China seas, he added. That is where China may have been given a slightly freer hand as Washington is embroiled in crises on other parts of the planet and sees no critical and immediate threat to its own interests.

Beijing’s policy has been to “press a little bit and see if we can change the status quo. But the operative term is “a little bit.”

“I don’t see China wanting to stir up massive geopolitical tensions anywhere just now,” Bremmer said. “I think they feel they over-extended themselves on that front. A couple of years ago, at the start of the Obama administration, they ended up with a backlash that led to a lot of countries in the region embracing and

supporting the U.S. more than China would have liked.”

Another factor in Beijing’s thinking will be the possible election of Hillary Clinton as the next president of the United States – which China “desperately doesn’t want to see.” “They don’t like her and they see her as a kind of architect of anti-China containment,” he added.

Asked to assess the effectiveness of the Japanese prime minister’s “Abenomics” policies, Bremmer said that major economic redirection was necessary as Japan slipped from the world’s second-largest economy to the number three spot.

“Japanese confidence needs to be more robust and they have to find ways to unlock the value that exists in spades in Japanese society,” he said. “The thing that excites me most about Abenomics has less to do with the central bank, but it’s things like bringing more women into the workforce. When 50 percent of your society is incredibly educated but fundamentally under-employed, that is ludicrous.”

Bremmer also expressed optimism that Japan will overcome the reservations of some of its business sectors to sign up for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade arrangement in 2015.

“Abe’s willingness to do this sort of thing, which no leaders before him were engaging with, requires a high level of political courage,” Bremmer said. “This sort of thing is not popular among the men who run Japan . . . and I think this sort of bold leadership matters.”

Bremmer’s discussion ranged far and wide across issues that are impacting the international situation. And although he agreed that the world faces plenty of major challenges, “we are not on the precipice of World War III,” he said.

“We face increasingly large numbers of geopolitical brushfires and when they get really big, countries get together to stamp on them,” said Bremmer, who has written nine books and whose organization is presently in 90 countries around the world.

“That is precisely because they are not viewed as a lot of risk to the global economy, whether that is Ebola in some of the poorest and least-developed countries in the world, whether it is the Ukraine or the Middle East,” he said. “The fact of the matter is that the markets are not paying much attention.” ●

Julian Ryall is the Japan correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*.

Time to fire up the reactors? “Not so fast,” says Niigata governor Hirohiko Izumida

The governor takes on the “Nuclear Village”

by JOHN HARRIS

ANYONE INCLINED TO GIVE Japan’s “Nuclear Village” the benefit of the doubt, to assume that nuclear regulators and plant operators have fully digested the lessons of Fukushima Daiichi, would do well to watch the FCCJ video of Hirohiko Izumida, governor of Niigata. It may change your mind.

Izumida, 52, an LDPer and former METI bureaucrat, told the FCCJ audience on Oct. 15 how the July 16, 2007 earthquake in his own Niigata Prefecture informed his perspective on nuclear safety. Its epicenter was beneath the seabed, 19.6 kilometers offshore from Tepco’s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa complex, with seven reactors the world’s largest nuclear power plant. The plant was Izumida’s problem from the moment the 6.6 magnitude quake struck at 10:13 a.m.

Japan’s 47 governors are the frontline generals of the nation’s disaster



Hirohiko Izumida

response system. Disaster plans are laid on a prefectural basis, and governors assume broad executive powers once a disaster is declared. An equally severe quake having hit the area just three years earlier, Niigata officials were well familiar with their quake-response handbooks – and the existence of a hotline to the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant. But when they called, no one answered.

As officials later learned from Tepco, the door to the room with the hotline had been warped by the quake, so no one could get in to pick up the phone. So as reports of black smoke rising from Kashiwazaki-Kariwa came in to officials in Niigata City, the prefectural capital 66 kilometers to the northeast, they were understandably alarmed by their inability to reach the plant’s management. “We had to rely on

television news reports,” Izumida said.

It turned out that severe subsidence caused land in parts of the site to drop 1.5 meters, rupturing pipes containing cables and thereby causing the fire. As water mains also ruptured, dry hydrants left firefighters to stand by and watch it burn.

In the aftermath, prefectural officials tore a strip off Tepco and demanded a number of specific modifications to the plant.

“As direct communication with the site is essential in the event of disaster,” Izumida said, “we strongly asked Tepco to install a special facility where communication could be assured, a ‘seismic-isolated building’ impervious to shaking. Under regulations at the time this was not required, but due to our bitter experience we demanded it be built. Still, Tepco tried to get around this, asking if it wouldn’t be okay just to use mobile phones. But we were adamant.”

Consequently, a similar facility was completed at Fukushima Daiichi just eight months before 3/11. “If we hadn’t

“You have to ask if Tepco should even have the right to operate a nuclear reactor.”

demanded this, it’s unlikely one would have been built at Fukushima,” Izumida noted. “And if that had not been built it’s unlikely that people would be living in Tokyo today.”

The upgraded firefighting capability Niigata demanded was also copied at Fukushima, which Izumida credited with firefighters there having the alternative means to pour cooling water on the reactors.

Noting that Japan’s Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) is making new standards for nuclear plants, Izumida expressed “grave concerns” about the process: “Given that the Fukushima accident has not yet been fully reviewed, bringing in new regulatory standards is very unwise. What worries us is that the NRA seems to be trying to shrink its responsibilities. They have a broad mandate to ensure the safety of nuclear power, but

Chairman Shunichi Tanaka seems to be focusing on small technical details instead of pursuing the full scope of measures recommended by the IAEA.

Emphasizing prefectural governments’ broad responsibility for disaster response, Izumida complained “the NRA refuses to even listen to our concerns. They refuse to communicate with us, so we have to put our ideas across in the public consultation process. Even then, our comments are not being taken into account.”

Izumida bluntly pointed to Tanaka as the heart of the problem, citing his reluctance to meet with local officials or even the president of Tepco. “His thinking is not about how to respond if an accident occurs... but rather how to evade responsibility. As a professor of nuclear science he seems to have decided to focus solely on technical matters. He is not thinking about the more important mission to protect the lives and assets of the people.”

Tanaka’s contention that Japan’s nuclear regulations are the strictest in the world was not credible, said Izumida. But if he was scathing in his criticism of Tanaka, his comments on Tepco were scorching.

“Tepco understood from a very early point that a meltdown had occurred, yet they hid this fact for over two months,” Izumida said. “So you have to ask if they should even have the right to operate a nuclear reactor. We need to have a

complete assessment of the Fukushima accident and where responsibilities lie. Until that is done we cannot even begin to discuss restarting plants.”

When asked why he alone was speaking out so stridently, Izumida noted that he was advocating a position agreed by the association of Japanese governors, then added darkly that even people close to him worried about what might happen to him for speaking out.

Scathing and scorching though his comments were, Izumida delivered them with an impressively cool composure, backed by a wealth of cogently argued technical detail. Watch the video and you may well decide that reactor restarts should only come if and when Izumida says it’s time. ●

John R. Harris is a speechwriter and freelance journalist based in Onjuku on Chiba’s Pacific coast.

Have a book inside you that is just dying to escape? Here's a way to let it out.

A new publishing paradigm

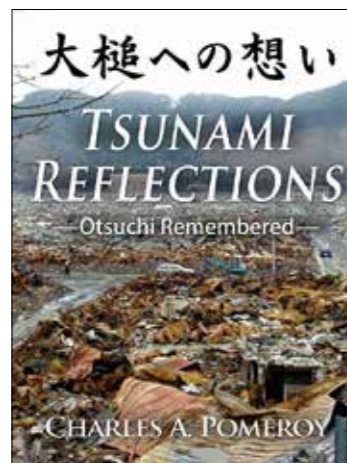
by CHARLES POMEROY

ANYONE WITH A book idea, or even a finished manuscript, knows how difficult – if not impossible – it can be to attract the attention of a traditional publisher. Very few publishers these days will even look at a manuscript unless it comes from an agent. For my memoir about Japan's 2011 tsunami, the initial

interest shown by one traditional publisher faded as the estimated retail price climbed, thanks to my desire to include some 113 color photos and maps. On top of a declining interest in the subject matter by the public, that slammed the door on any deal.

My subsequent decision to check out self-publishing possibilities for an e-book led me to Telemachus Press, one of a number of services for self-publishers. Under this imprint, authors become “micro-publishers” who pay for the services but own all rights to the book. Telemachus offers a number of options, including editing, design, and formatting as well as several publishing packages for both e-books and print-on-demand (POD) books. In return, the author/micro-publisher, receives up to 70 percent in royalties from book sales (the booksellers retain 20 or 30 percent). It's a good deal if the book is successful.

The Telemachus response to my initial contact was a proposal to do a POD book as well as an e-book. They made the case that a POD book can be ordered one book at a time, anywhere in the world, and has the advantage of a relatively low production cost without warehousing problems. The clincher was their estimated retail price – \$5.99 for the e-book and \$14.99 for the POD version. This was much lower than a traditional publisher, even with all those color photos. And their sales estimate would take me past the break-even point, which had been a major concern.



I made the commitment in May of this year. Four months later, at the end of September, *Tsunami Reflections*, was launched as an e-book on the distribution networks of both Amazon and Smashwords. Though less familiar than Amazon, Smashwords is a major distributor of indie books to outlets like Apple's iBooks, Barnes &

Noble, Kobo and many others.

The POD edition was made available worldwide in early October by Lightning Source, which can print and bind books individually at plants in the U.S. for North America, in the U.K. for Europe, and in Australia for Asia. Lightning Source is a subsidiary of Ingram, a major worldwide book distributor.

Although making the POD version available through brick-and-mortar outlets was also an option, the cost for making those arrangements and the necessary marketing efforts were beyond my means. Such traditional outlets are for a novelist with visions of a blockbuster, not for a retired and aging journalist reflecting on a recent disaster.

Also worth mentioning is that working with the Telemachus staff – editor, project coordinator, production people and cover designer – turned out to be a breeze. They were user-friendly and professional, especially the editor who prompted a number of rewrites. After several tries, incorporating unfamiliar Japanese calligraphy on the cover of the book was neatly done by the designer. The project manager's role included welcome guidance for this neophyte in making separate contracts with Smashwords and Lightning Source in order to receive royalty payments.

The total out-of-pocket cost for the package and editing service I selected was a bit under \$4,000. It could have been done at lower cost by going directly to Smashwords, which

offers publishing services as well, but that would have required technical expertise beyond my capabilities in formatting an acceptable manuscript for publication. Telemachus seemed to offer a less stressful way to do this. (Amazon offers a similar publishing service through its CreateSpace service, but the cost of their POD color printing would have meant a higher retail price for my book.)

With self-publishing, marketing and promotion is the responsibility of the author. So those higher royalties may do little more than help an inept marketer like me break even, but I will be happy with that. After all, my purpose in writing the book was simply to provide some personal insight on the tsunami and its aftereffects.

Goodreads, the “world's largest site for readers and book recommendations,” offers some help in this regard. I joined and have been assigned a profile page, including a blog. They also offer low-key promotional services at relatively low cost, but I have yet to work out a strategy to take advantage of this.

For those interested, a POD copy of the book is now available in the FCCJ library. It details the fate of Otsuchi – the hometown of my wife, Atsuko, where we had built our retirement home – and is a microcosmic look at the effects of the horrific tsunami that destroyed Japan's Sanriku Coast on March 11, 2011. The narrative provides geographical and historical context and reflects on the tsunami's aftermath, loss of family members and home, mass funerals, cultural aspects, humanitarian efforts and plans for recovery. As mentioned earlier, many color photos and maps are included.

I look forward to letting everyone know in a few months how my experiment with this new paradigm in publishing has worked out. By the way, this article is in no way a blanket endorsement of the companies named, but simply a record of my short career as a self-publisher. ●

Charles Pomeroy retired from journalism 10 years ago and now devotes his time to writing books.

“Tokyo Pop” by Androniki Christodoulou



I HAVE BEEN SHOOTING *Tokyo Pop* over a period of 10 years, part of a visual diary formed as I walked the city streets and met Tokyo's people, through work-related assignments or just because I am out there with my camera.

Japan's unique and colorful popular culture was one of the reasons that brought me here and kept me captivated for so long: tradition and new trends; zones in the city that have specific character and others where everything is possible. From the uniformity of salarymen to the extremes of fetish culture, there is space for everything. Popular culture in Tokyo isn't something fixed that can be described in one set of photos. It flows and changes all the time.

In these photos I aim to show the mood of places and situations as I experienced them in these transient moments. ●



Androniki Christodoulou was born in Greece and moved to Tokyo in 2004. She freelances for international media and corporate clients. She is expanding her skills into video and multimedia. She has published the book *Otaku Spaces* and self-published *Underworld* about the 2011 tsunami.

HEARD AT THE CLUB

“I’ve said many times let’s get rid of the ‘D’ word – ‘disability.’ Don’t replace it. Drop it from a great height. If you put the word ‘disability’ with the word ‘engine,’ it means it’s one that doesn’t work. So in people’s mentality a disabled person doesn’t function. We all have different levels of ability.”

Sir Philip Craven, president of the International Paralympic Committee, at a press conference on Oct. 15 discussing the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



JOIN THE MOVIE COMMITTEE ...

... at 6:00 pm on Friday, Nov. 7 for a very special event to help kick off the upcoming 16-film “Silent Film Renaissance 2014 from Vienna: Treasures of Filmarchiv Austria” at the National Film Center. We will screen the 1927 Marlene Dietrich film *Cafe Elektric* with piano and *benshi* (Japanese narrator) accompaniment, which is a creative combination that must be seen if you haven’t had a chance yet (or even if you have). The evening begins with a cocktail party at which the performers and representatives of Filmarchiv Austria, Embassy of Austria and National Film Center will be present. After the screening, there will be a Q&A session with Austrian pianist Gerhard Gruber, *benshi* Ichiro Kataoka, and film archivist Fumiko Tsuneishi. Cocktails and light snacks are just ¥1,080 (incl. tax). A selection of Austrian wine will be served, and other drinks will be available at the cash bar. (91 minutes, German intertitles with narration in Japanese and English dialogue précis)

— Karen Severns



REGULAR MEMBERS

BRIAN PUBLICOVER writes about solar and wind industries as the East Asia correspondent for *Recharge News*, a London-based publication under Norway’s NHST Media that covers the global renewable energy market. A native of Ottawa, Canada, Brian Publicover has worked in the Asia-Pacific region for 14 years. After a brief period in Seoul, he moved to China, where he bounced between Beijing and Hong Kong in the years leading up to the 2008 Olympics. When a Hong Kong-based, Asia-focused news start-up he helped manage folded, he moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, to work as part of a team behind the launch of yet another election-oriented media project. He returned to Japan in 2010, and after a brief stint at Nikkei, joined Norway’s NHST Media Group.

JONAS PULVER reports on culture, society and technology for the Swiss newspaper *Le Temps*, Swiss national radio, Espace 2, and some specialized publications including *Hemispheres* magazine, *Technologist* and *360 Magazine*. Prior to coming to Japan he worked in Geneva as a staff writer for the Society and Culture section of *Le Temps*, and as the editor-in-chief of *360 Magazine*.

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Motohiro Miura, Otsuna Women’s University
- Chiaki Ishikawa, Clean Tec Blog / SELC Co., Ltd.
- Hiroshi Imura, Conocophillips Japan Ltd.
- Ryoji Furukawa, MBK Co., Ltd.
- Atsushi Usui, Asahi Breweries Ltd.
- Keiichirou Kondou, Asahi Breweries Ltd.

- Hiroyuki Taguchi, Dai-Ichi Suisan Co., Ltd.
- Kazumasa Kitamura, CP Solutions Inc.
- Yoshihisa Matsumoto, Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.
- Mariko Hayashibara, Bank Of America Merrill Lynch Japan Securities Co., Ltd.
- Hiroshi Ishikawa, Dentsu Emarketing One
- Kazuhide Kawai, Mitsubishi Ore Transport Co., Ltd.
- Kai Lip Ang, Brunei Energy Service Company



Dear General MacArthur: letters from the Japanese during the American occupation

Rinjiro Sodei
John Junkerman (ed.)
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers
Gift from Rinjiro Sodei

Gift from Committee for Publication
Commemorating Koyasan’s World Heritage Designation

Oman and Japan: the vibrant sakura and rose relations

Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman
Urban Connections
Gift from Lucy Birmingham

Oman to Nihon: sakura to bara ga tsunagu koryu no ayumi
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman
Urban Connections
Gift from Lucy Birmingham

Were we the enemy?: American survivors of Hiroshima

Rinjiro Sodei
John Junkerman (ed.)
Westview Press
Gift from Rinjiro Sodei

In the eyes of the son: a novel

Hans Brinckmann
Savant Books
Gift from Hans Brinckmann

Japan and the war on terror: military force and political pressure in the US-Japanese alliance

Michael Penn
I. B. Tauris
Gift from Michael Penn

Koyasan the holy mountain: commemorating the 10th anniversary of designation as a world heritage site

Mariko Yokoyama (ed.)
Committee for Publication
Commemorating Koyasan’s World Heritage Designation

Suganuma Hikaru Land
Gift from Hiroyuki Fujita

Kitachosen to Nihonjin
Antonio Inoki; Pyon Jin Il
Kadokawa
Gift from Antonio Inoki

Kosodate to iu seiji: shoshika nanoni naze taiki jido ga umareru no ka
Hiroko Inokuma
Kadokawa
Gift from Suvendrini Kakuchi

Saisei suru toshi kukan to shimin sankaku

Kayo Tajima; Koichi Ishizaka; Yasushi Matsumoto; Akio Igarashi
Cuon
Gift from Akio Igarashi

Les 99 Chasselas à boire avant de mourir

Jérôme Aké Beda, Pierre-Emmanuel Buss Favre
Gift from George Baumgartner

Defense of Japan 2014

Ministry of Defense (ed.)
Nikkei Insatsu
Gift from Ministry of Defense

Eien no knockout
Henry Scott Stokes; Kaoru Nakamaru; Mitsuhiro

FCCJ

Where news is made
Be part of it



The Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan is a modern members’ club for the ever-changing world of journalism and for associate members from all walks of life.

Located in the very heart of Tokyo on the edge of the legendary Ginza and the Marunouchi business district, the FCCJ is the ideal venue for networking, entertaining, dining and relaxing and...

making the news

For more on the benefits of membership for yourself or a colleague, contact Naomichi Iwamura at iwamura@fccj.or.jp or 03-3211-4392 for further details





Innovation
that excites

WHAT IF_ YOUR CAR HAD A FORCE FIELD?

**SAFETY SHIELD
TECHNOLOGIES**



NISSAN X-TRAIL

STAR TREK and the U.S.S. ENTERPRISE are properties owned by CBS Studios Inc. Used under license.

nissanwhatif.com